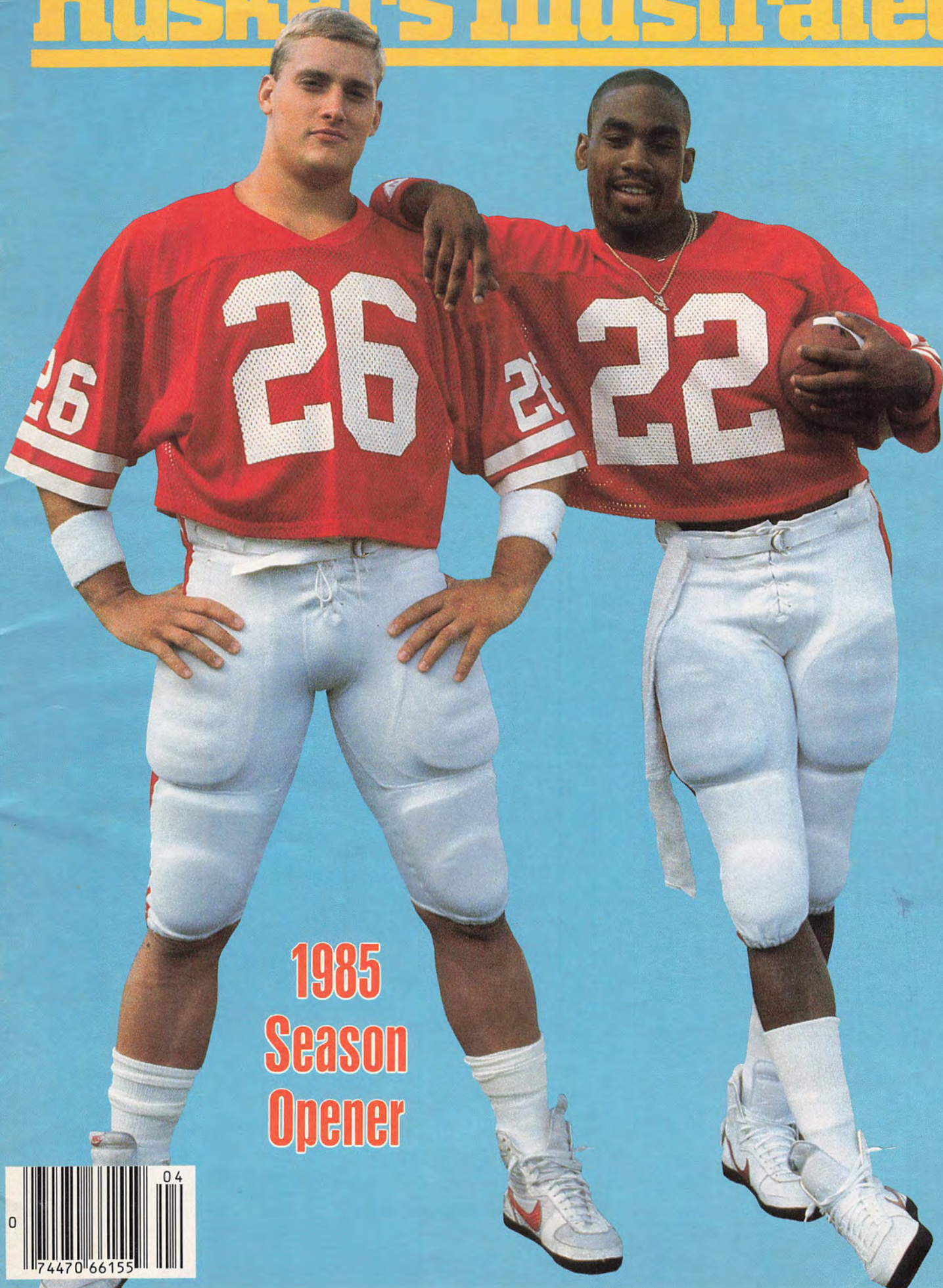


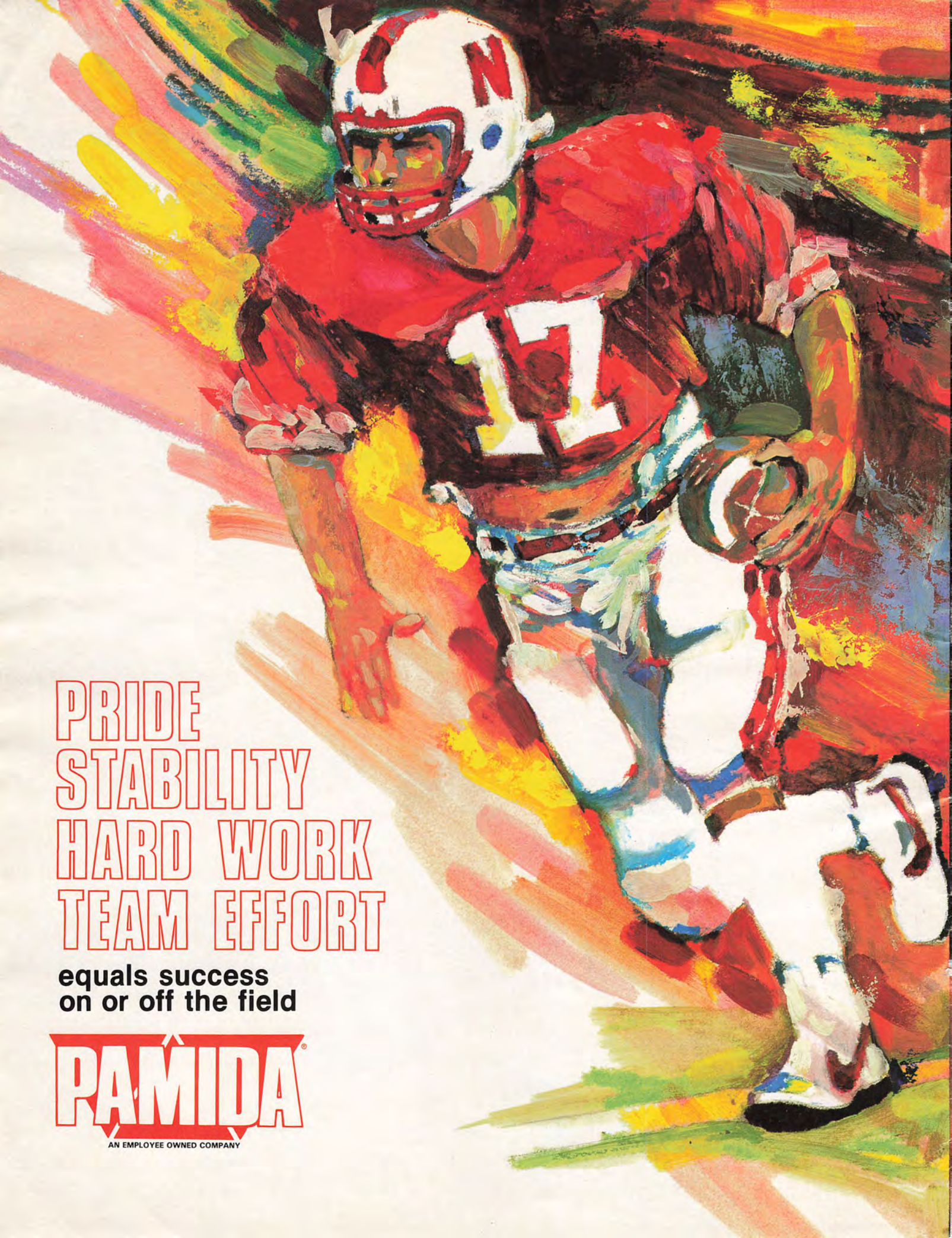
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On The Cover

Fullback Tom Rathman and I-Back Doug Dubose took a short time out while preparing for the 1985 season opener against Florida State so Lincoln photographer Dave Finn could take our cover shot. Future weekly covers will feature action shots from the exciting weeks ahead.

In The Next Issue

Results of the Florida State contest and a look ahead at a tough Illinois foe.

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Letters

Dear Huskers:

Perhaps you can be of some assistance to me. I am a student at Valparaiso University, a resident of Wisconsin and a Nebraska Cornhusker fan. I am interested in Husker ticket information, particularly for the game at Illinois on Sept. 20, 1986. I have no idea whom to contact. Could you please give me the address of some ticket source, whether in Lincoln or Champaign. Any help would be much appreciated.

Thank you,
Tim Dull
Appleton, WI

EDITOR'S NOTE — Tickets for the 1986 Nebraska-Illinois football game are bound to be in short supply. Like the Cornhuskers, the Illini regularly sell out their stadium. We would suggest you write the Illinois ticket office immediately after Jan. 1, 1986. The sooner the better.

The address: Athletic Association Ticket Office, 100 Assembly Hall, 1800 S. First Street, Champaign, IL 61820

To improve your chances, you might try writing the Nebraska ticket office as well. That address is: South Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, NE 68588

Good luck.

Dear Huskers:

Just before the Oklahoma game last season, *USA Today* quoted Don Bryant as saying: "I'm not trying to sound smug, but we play them for the title every year...But the longer you're on top the more you tend to take it in stride." As a lifetime NU fan but living most of my life away from Nebraska I am concerned about limited and/or distorted media coverage of NU football, especially in the East. Could you please explain the context of this remark and something of the NU coaching philosophy as to whether a big game is "just another game" or whether no game is "just another game."

Sincerely,
Jim Welch
Rockville, MD

EDITOR'S NOTE — Nebraska's coaches take the attitude that each opponent must be treated with the same respect so that the Cornhuskers don't experience dramatic, emotional highs and lows during the season. If you look at NU Coach Tom Osborne's record, you'll find that his teams have never lost to an opponent which finished its season with a losing record.

Naturally, the Oklahoma game isn't

"just another game" for the fans of either team. Don Bryant's comments stated an obvious fact. The Nebraska-Oklahoma game invariably affects the outcome of the conference race.

Dear Huskers:

Received your June-July edition of *Huskers Illustrated* and as usual, being a Husker football addict, I enjoyed it, although the reason I'm writing is that I was a little disappointed in your report on the spring practice game. All the other editions after the spring game had a real good report with complete stats. Last spring was the most enjoyable one I have ever seen, especially with the complete depth charts of the Red and White offensive and defensive units. In other words, it went from best to worst as you had one-fourth of a page covering the spring game this year. I thought if other football addicts like me would write, maybe in your next issue this summer, you would have the depth charts and a little better write-up.

Respectfully yours,
Edward V. Anderson
Moline, IL

EDITOR'S NOTE — Because of a new publication schedule, the spring game story gave way to the summer pre-season preview story. We will, however, return to the other approach for next spring, if enough readers are interested. Please, let us know.

Dear Huskers:

I have no question for Coach Osborne but I would like to send you a clipping from the *Austin American-Statesman* to forward to him. The clipping relates to Nebraska's signing of a Houston "Blue Chip" football prospect. The University of Texas attitude seems to be that it is an honor to represent the University of Texas and all Texas residents should want to do so. Therefore, their amazement at these "Blue Chip" prospects and their willingness to go to other schools.

Sincerely,
Charles P. Anderson
San Marcos, TX

EDITOR'S NOTE — Nebraska did well recruiting in Texas last winter, landing Broderick Thomas and John Roschal from the Houston area, Bill Bobbora from Amarillo and Kris Lamb from Waxahachie.



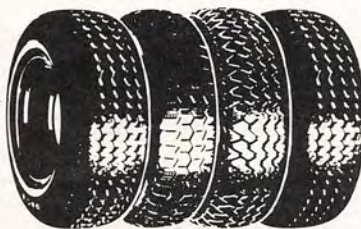
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Dear Huskers:

I have recently moved to Ajo, Arizona, 100 miles south of Phoenix and I'm wondering where to tune my radio for live Husker football this fall? I enjoyed listening to Big Red games from Denton, Texas, the last three years and I'm looking for more great broadcasts. Can you help? Thanks.

A Faithful Cornhusker
Steve Van Repir
Ajo, AZ

EDITOR'S NOTE — Maybe one of our Arizona readers can supply Steve with the information for which he's looking.

Dear Huskers:

I am currently both on the school board and team physician for St. Leo's High School. I am trying to develop a weight training program for the school in general and in particular for our sports program consisting of football, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls track and girls drill team. I would appreciate any

outline of programs or other suggestions you may have for developing this weight program.

Thank you for your help.
Sincerely,
James M. Craig, M.D.
Lewiston, MT

EDITOR'S NOTE — Your letter will be forwarded to NU strength and conditioning coach Boyd Epley.

Dear Huskers:

I would like to know why Paul Miles cannot receive a hardship ruling like Nate Mason did a few years ago. Both were hurt in the third game of the season and did not play the rest of the year. It would be great to have Miles and Doug DuBose both juniors this year. Please answer. Thank you.

Jay Torczon
Columbus, NE

EDITOR'S NOTE — We'd like to have Paul Miles back for another season, too, but unlike Nate Mason, Paul has been

redshirted. The NCAA allows an athlete five years to complete four.

Dear Huskers:

My name is Darin E. Williams. I am a senior at Immaculate Conception High School in Montclair, N.J. I play offensive line and defensive line.

Darin E. Williams
East Orange, N.J.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Thanks for the note, Darin. We'll forward it to Cornhusker recruiting coordinator Steve Pederson.

Dear Huskers:

I'm a sophomore at Palm Beach Gardens High School. I'm on the football team. I enjoy seeing the team on TV, and I'm hoping to attend Nebraska. I enjoy reading your magazines called *Huskers Illustrated*.

Sincerely,
Ricardo King
Riviera Beach, Fla. ♦

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Seminoles Will Challenge Huskers With Long Passes and Untried Secondary....

in Game No. 1 of 1985.



Pass it on. The Florida State football team won't be much different in 1985 than it was in 1984, when the Seminoles of 10th-year head Coach Bobby Bowden finished 7-3-2 and made a trip to the Citrus Bowl where they tied Georgia.

"We're not going to go out and change a bunch of things," said Bowden.

"What we really need is to do the things we are doing better. When you finish in the top three or four in the nation on offense for three straight years you don't want to change a lot. What we want to do is make some minor adjustments. It's like taking a car and replacing the bumpers, not the whole engine. We want to throw better, not necessarily more."

The Seminoles "are much like us," Nebraska defensive backs Coach Bob Thornton said of the Cornhuskers' opening-game opponents.

"They make you honor the run, and their passing is down-the-field. It's not a control (passing) game. They'll try to stretch you vertically and got for big chunks of yardage."

Florida State will run the ball about 60 percent of the time, said NU defensive coordinator Charlie McBride. When the Seminoles do pass, they're looking for big yardage.

Senior quarterback Eric Thomas completed 78 of 161 passes for 1,218 yards and 14 touchdowns last season.

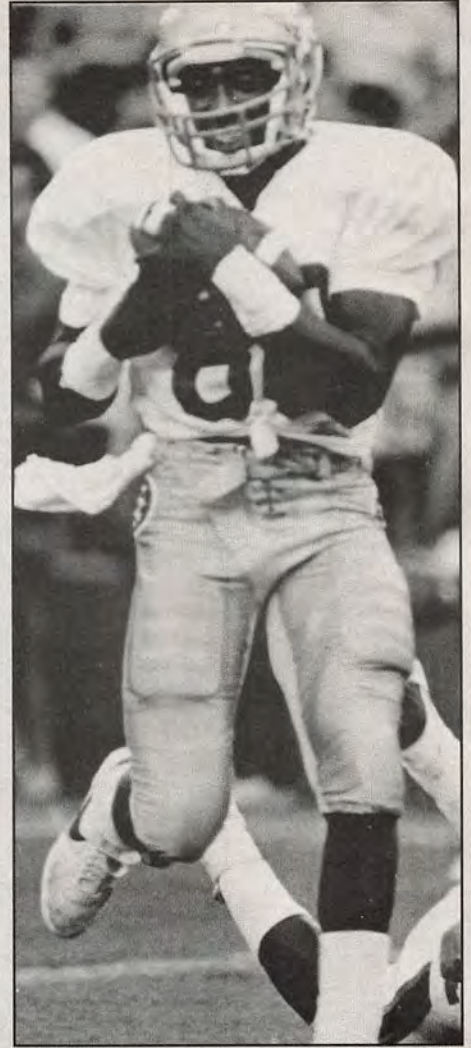
He averaged an FSU school-record 15.6 yards per completion. Even so, the 6-foot-1, 200-pound senior from Lake Park, Ga., began the fall at No. 3 on the depth chart after missing spring practice because of a shoulder injury.

Danny McManus started at No. 1 but the redshirted sophomore played in only two games last fall, attempting 10 passes, of which five were complete and two intercepted.

Florida State returns 12 starters; six on offense and six on defense. Most notable of the returnees are offensive guard Jamie Dukes, a 6-0, 272-pound senior from Orlando, Fla., and Hassan Jones, a 6-1, 200-pound senior wide receiver from Clearwater, Fla.

Jones, who has :04.48 speed in the 40-yard dash, caught 28 passes for 501 yards and seven touchdowns last fall. During Florida State's annual spring game, he caught eight passes for 144 yards and two TDs.

FSU's offensive line is built around All-American guard Jamie Dukes (No. 64) at 6-0 and 272 pounds.



Above left: Defensive tackle (No. 45) Isaac Williams will lead the Seminole defense.
Right: Returning starter, wide receiver Hassan Jones has :04.48 speed in the 40.

Dukes, who has started an FSU record 36 games, earned All-American recognition last season.

"It's hard for me to think that there's a better offensive guard or offensive lineman in the nation. He has everything a coach looks for in a lineman," Bowden said.

"A lot of people's names are thrown around for All-American honors but I feel about Jamie the way the folks at Pitt felt about (Bill) Fralic.

"And if anybody wants to question me on Dukes, I've got the film footage to convince 'em," said Bowden.

Wayne McDuffie, the Seminoles' offensive coordinator, is equally complimentary.

"Jamie Dukes is the best offensive lineman I've ever coached," McDuffie said.

"He can play any position on the line and I really believe he could play either side of the ball. One thing that impresses me is that everybody we play, every time I run into a coach we've played, they always mention what a great player Dukes is."

Naturally, Florida State's line is built around Dukes, but senior John Ionata has shown he can hold his own. The 6-3, 279-pound senior tackle is a three-year letterman and two-year starter who's twice been picked as an All-South Independent.

"John Ionata and Jamie Dukes could be big factors in our offense. We expect them to be leaders," said Bowden.

The biggest hole created by graduation was at tailback, where the Seminoles lost two-time All-American Greg Allen. The position was further weakened when senior Roosevelt Snipes fell victim to some academic difficulties.

Tony Smith, a 5-10, 179-pound senior from Miami, went into the fall as the No. 1 tailback. He's undergone arthroscopic knee surgery twice but appears to be healthy enough to do the job. He carried 34 times in seven games last season, gaining 212 yards.

Fullback Cletis Jones is a returning starter. The 6-0, 222-pound senior from Miami rushed for 631 yards and three touchdowns a year ago. He's extremely strong, bench pressing 400 pounds and squat lifting 505 pounds.

The Seminole defense is led by 6-1, 260-pound senior tackle Isaac Williams, a second-team All-South Independent performer as a junior. He was credited with 80 tackles last season, 42 of them unassisted and nine behind the line of scrimmage. He had five sacks.

Williams is extremely strong, bench pressing 415 pounds and squat lifting 500 pounds. His 395-pound power clean ranks as the best in FSU history.

Eric Williams, a 5-9, 180-pound sophomore from Safety Harbor, Fla., is the most experienced player in the secondary. He started 11 games last season as a redshirted freshman and finished with four interceptions.

Because of its overall lack of experience, the secondary is Bowden's biggest defensive concern. "I'll tell you what scares me," he said.

"Whenever we are evaluating our oppo-

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nents, we always look for the most inexperienced people in the secondary and then we try to go at them as much as we can. If I were looking at our team, I would sure see some areas to work against.

"We've got to count heavily on our defensive front. That's where all the experience is and that's where we feel we are solid. It's a situation where those guys will have to help the secondary; all the time keep the pressure on the other team. If we can't do that, I'm afraid we're going to have a lot of trouble," Bowden said.

Inside linebacker Fred Jones gave the opposition a lot of trouble last fall. He

finished second on the team in tackles, making 65 solos and assisting on 40 others. The junior from Miami is as impressive physically as he is statistically. He stands 6-3 and weighs 242 pounds.

Garth Jax, a senior from Houston, Texas, started nine games at outside linebacker last fall. He missed the final three games because of a kidney and spleen injury but was back at full strength during the spring.

The Florida State kicking game appears to be in good shape with punter Louis Berry and placekicker Derek Schmidt back. Berry averaged 42.3 yards per punt,

on 49 punts, and Schmidt was successful on 17 of 24 field attempts including a school-record 54-yarder. He was 42-of-42 on extra-point kicks.

The Seminoles' first three games are televised nationally. They opened against Tulane in New Orleans on Aug. 31, the earliest start in school history, before coming to Lincoln to play Nebraska in the Cornhusker opener on Sept. 7. "It will be extremely important for us to get off to a good start," said Bowden.

"Our first three games will be seen coast-to-coast and that will set the stage for the rest of the year."

"I am a southern boy who wants to be in the Deep South. I slipped on the ice once too often, got bogged down in the snow one time too many," — FSU Coach Bobby Bowden.

"Everything I do is optimistic. I've got to figure that something good will happen. I don't know how, but it will."

That's how Florida State football Coach Bobby Bowden describes himself. During his nine seasons in Tallahassee, Fla., good things have happened to the Seminoles. Bowden's Florida State teams are 73-30-2, and they've made six bowl appearances, twice in the Orange Bowl, twice in the Citrus Bowl, and once each in the Peach and Gator Bowls.

Florida State had gone 4-29 the three seasons prior to Bowden's arrival from

West Virginia, where he was 42-26. His first five Seminole teams were 44-14, and they made back-to-back trips to the Orange Bowl to play Oklahoma.

The 55-year-old Bowden ranks 13th on the list of winningest active NCAA Division I coaches. He has a career winning percentage of .700. Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne, of course, ranks second on that list (.810).

Coaching is a family business in the Bowden household. All three of his sons and a son-in-law are coaches.

Bowden is 1-1 in games with Nebraska.



The Series

Nebraska has played Florida State in football only twice in consecutive seasons at Memorial Stadium. The Seminoles escaped with an 18-14 victory in 1980, a loss which the Cornhuskers avenged 34-14 in 1981.

The 1980 game...

Florida State snapped a three-game Nebraska winning streak by scoring 15 second-half points. The villain was Seminole placekicker Bill Capece, who kicked field goals of 32, 27, 40 and 41 yards. The last came with 2:37 left.

The Cornhuskers held a 14-3 halftime lead, but three key turnovers helped disappoint an audience of 76,152.

Nebraska drove to the FSU three-yard line in the final minute. But NU quarterback Jeff Quinn fumbled when he was hit

by linebacker Paul Piurowski, and Florida State recovered with 12 seconds remaining to seal the victory.

Cornhusker I-back Jarvis Redwine ran for 145 yards but suffered broken ribs late in the fourth quarter and was sidelined for two weeks.

Todd Brown caught a pair of touchdown passes from Quinn and Kevin Seibel kicked both extra points for Nebraska, which finished with 368 total yards to Florida State's 166 yards.

The 1981 game...

Nebraska scored two touchdowns in a six-second span of the third quarter to break open what had been a close game. The Cornhuskers led 10-7 when Irving Fryar returned a punt 82 yards for a touchdown, and on the ensuing kickoff,

Tony Felici caught a fumble in mid-air and ran 13 yards to score.

Roger Craig eliminated any doubt as to the game's outcome in the fourth quarter, running a school-record 94 yards from scrimmage for a touchdown. Craig finished the afternoon with 234 yards on 20 carries and earned national Back of the Week honors.

Felici, a substitute defensive end until that game, was credited with 13 tackles and was named the Big Eight Defensive Player of the Week.

Quarterback Nate Mason scored the Cornhuskers' first touchdown on an eight-yard run in the first quarter, as Nebraska rebounded from a 10-7, opening game loss to Iowa.

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FSU Two Deep

FSU OFFENSE

POSITION	PLAYER
Split End	Hassan Jones, 6-1, 200, sr. Herb Gainer, 6-2, 187, so.
Strong Tackle	Pablo Lopez, 6-4, 268, so. Joe Ionata, 6-2, 263, fr.
Strong Guard	Mark Salva, 6-2, 250, so. Thomas Harp, 6-1, 280, jr.
Center	David Schrenker, 6-3, 250, so. Jim Hendley, 6-3, 257, jr.
Tight Guard	Jamie Dukes, 6-0, 272, sr. Jason Kuipers, 6-2, 249, fr.
Right Tackle	John Ionata, 6-3, 279, sr. Pat Tomberlin, 6-3, 323, fr.
Tight End	Pat Carter, 6-4, 255, so. Pete Pantan, 6-2, 225, sr.
Quarterback	Danny McManus, 6-1, 187, so. Eric Thomas, 6-1, 200, sr.
Tailback	Tony Smith, 5-10, 179, sr. Victor Floyd, 5-11, 190, fr.
Fullback	Cletis Jones, 6-0, 222, sr. Chuck Wells, 6-1, 205, so.
Flanker	Darrin Holloman, 5-7, 168, so. Phillip Bryant, 5-10, 180, fr. or Randy White, 6-0, 179, so.

FSU DEFENSE

Outside Linebacker	Darryl Gray, 6-2, 236, sr. Bruce Heggie, 6-4, 238, jr.
Left Tackle	Isaac Williams, 6-1, 260, sr. Steve Gabbard, 6-5, 263, fr.
Strongside Linebacker	Fred Jones, 6-3, 242, jr. Felton Hayes, 6-1, 226, fr.
Noseguard	Todd Stroud, 5-11, 233, sr. Lenny Chavers, 6-0, 260, sr.
Weakside Linebacker	Paul McGowan, 6-1, 218, so. Jesse Solomon, 6-1, 240, sr.
Right Tackle	Gerald Nichols, 6-2, 265, jr. Stanley Scott, 6-3, 238, senior.
Outside Linebacker	Garth Jax, 6-2, 230, se. Terry Warren, 6-1, 225, so.
Left Cornerback	Deione Sanders, 5-11, 169, fr. Martin Mayhew, 5-8, 172, so.
Strong Safety	Stan Shriver, 6-2, 192, fr. Brian Davis, 6-0, 194, fr.
Free Safety	Greg Newell, 5-11, 193, so. John Hadley, 6-5, 212, fr. Tracey Sanders, 6-1, 173, fr.
Right Cornerback	Eric Williams, 5-9, 180, so. Martin Mayhew, 5-8, 172, so.

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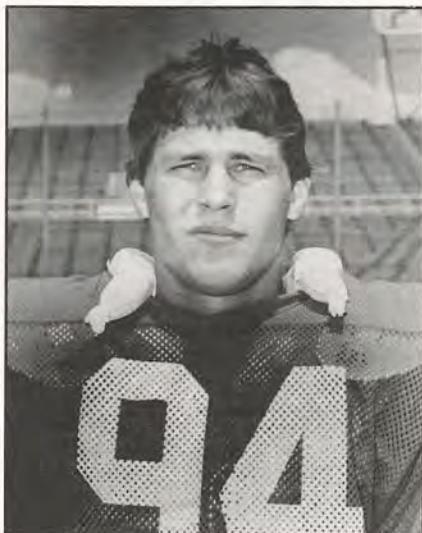
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Brian Hiemer

September 5, 1963

To

August 14, 1985

The Nebraska football team was shocked and saddened by the death of senior tight end Brian Hiemer on the morning two-a-day practices began. The 21-year-old Hiemer died of what authorities called an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Hiemer was found on his parents' farm near Shelby, Ne., on the Tuesday before fall camp was to begin.

He died the next morning at University Hospital in Omaha. Nebraska's annual football Photo Day, scheduled for that afternoon was canceled.

The news cast a somber shadow over the start of the season. "All of us have a great deal of sympathy for Brian's family," said Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne, who had driven to Omaha on Tuesday night to be with Hiemer.

"Everyone admired him as a fine player, a fine person and a fine student. Brian will be greatly missed by all of us. Many players have expressed great concern for him and his family," Osborne said.

A busload of players and coaches went to Shelby for the funeral at Sacred Heart Church. Approximately 600 people attended the service.

"Brian was an excellent student, a great athlete and a good kid," said David McMahon, Hiemer's football coach at David City Aquinas High School. "He was kind of quiet, very polite, a real friendly boy. You could never get him riled."

That's the way his coaches and teammates at Nebraska saw him. Hiemer represented "all the good things about college football," Osborne said.

Hiemer walked on with the Huskers in 1981. He was cut from the team following his freshman year, but undaunted, he asked Osborne to let him try again. Eventually, he earned a scholarship and during

the spring of his third year at Nebraska, he worked his way to the top of the Cornhusker depth chart. Last season, Hiemer alternated with Todd Frain as the starter at tight end, and he was slated to do the same this fall.

"Horatio Alger would have loved him," says the 1985 NU football media guide.

"Brian was a guy we were counting on for some leadership," said Osborne.

Hiemer had a cumulative grade-point average of better than 3.3 on a 4.0 scale in mechanical engineering and needed only 17 hours to complete an undergraduate degree.

Ursula Walsh, Nebraska's athletic department academic counselor, described Hiemer as "a good student and a good athlete. He certainly gave every appearance of being a happy person. The whole realm of adolescent depression is something we all experience but not to this degree. To understand it is impossible."

George Sullivan, Nebraska's head trainer and physical therapist, echoed Walsh's words. "It's really pretty tough to understand," he said.

"It's a real shock to the whole team, especially when they said it was self-inflicted because we all thought of him as being one real stable person. I don't know of anybody who disliked him or anything like that. I didn't have an inkling of any sort of problem that would lead to this."

Hiemer seemed to hold athletics in proper perspective, according to Rev. Robert Roh, who also coached Hiemer in high school. "I always got the sense from Brian that athletics was not the end all," said Roh. "It's easy for kids to make athletics an idol, but Brian was one of the few that I never had to worry about."

"He was not obtrusive. He'd never do anything that would draw attention to

himself. I guess the feeling you would get is that he was very comfortable in your presence. He never needed to impress anyone."

Like everyone else who knew him, Roh said the circumstances which led to Hiemer's tragic death were incomprehensible. "There is no rationale for this act," Roh said.

Hiemer, who was born Sept. 5, 1963 in Osceola, Ne., is survived by his parents, Willard and Loyola Hiemer; a brother and sister-in-law, Randall and Margaret Hiemer; three sisters, Carol, Mary Lynn and Jeanne; grandmother Helen Hiemer; and two nieces, Karen and Kristine Hiemer.

Michael Kelly, sports editor of the *Omaha World-Herald*, attended Hiemer's funeral. Afterward, he wrote: "At the funeral, priests spoke eloquently of Hiemer's determination, of his vigor and of his gentleness. They also talked of 'the burning confusion and hurt,' and of the lack of any answer that satisfies human logic."

"Tom Osborne, the Nebraska coach, spoke privately with Hiemer's parents for a few moments after the service and then put his players on a bus for Lincoln. The funeral procession moved down a street past more than a dozen red flags, with white N's, the symbol of all that is glorious on Saturdays in the fall. And then they buried a fine young man before his time."

On the day of Hiemer's death, Don Bryant, who's been sports information director at Nebraska for 23 years, noted, with sadness: "I don't recall anything impacting on the atmosphere or the program like this. We've had other human tragedies but not on the day before practice. There's a sense of loss, and I don't mean football."

Huskers Illustrated shares that sentiment. Brian Hiemer will be missed. ♦



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Osborne Opens 13th Season at Husker Helm with Little Experience



Depending on how you look at it, Tom Osborne enters his 13th season as Nebraska's head football coach with his most inexperienced team.

Depending on how you look at it...

Osborne looks at it conservatively, of course. "We've got eight or nine players you could count as starters if you wanted to," he said.

On offense, tight end Todd Frain and fullback Tom Rathman were starters last season, and quarterback Travis Turner started half the time.

Frain, a steady senior from Treynor, Iowa, joined the late Brian Hiemer in giving Nebraska a solid one-two punch. Frain

did more than block. He caught 15 passes for 218 yards and one touchdown.

Rathman, who's averaged just over five yards per carry during his career, started nine games last fall.

Technically, I-back Doug DuBose wasn't a starter. The junior from Uncasville, Conn., started only once last fall, but he still led the Big Eight in rushing, with 1,040 yards, and he earned first-team all-conference recognition.

That's experience enough.

"Doug's pretty refined in most areas," said NU offensive backs Coach Frank Solich. "He's an excellent pass receiver. He'll do a fine job going after you as a blocker,

and he's got natural running ability."

Defensively, linebacker Marc Munford and tackle Chris Spachman started regularly. Both are juniors.

Munford led the team in tackles, with 96, 58 of which were unassisted, while Spachman led the interior line in tackles and the team in quarterback sacks, with seven.

Senior middle guard Ken Shead, who sat out the spring to get some classwork in order, played more than departed starter Ken Graeber, and senior cornerback Dennis Watkins started several games, though "we're stretching the point a bit to call Watkins a (returning) starter," said Os-



Linebacker Mike Knox (44), who returns after a year of rehabilitation from knee surgery, will provide needed leadership for the Black Shirts.

schedule which Osborne considers "probably one of the more difficult schedules we've ever played. We have a big job to do, and we have very little experience with which to do it.

"The early part of the season will be a very severe test."

The Cornhuskers open against Florida State in Lincoln on Sept. 7, a game which will be televised nationally by ABC, then play highly-regarded Illinois at Memorial Stadium on Sept. 21.

Oregon, their third opponent, "is probably a little bit above the middle of the Pac 10," Osborne said.

Nebraska completes its non-conference season of four consecutive home games Oct. 5 against New Mexico.

Nebraska's Big Eight schedule is just as demanding, beginning with Oklahoma State in Stillwater, Okla. The Cowboys are expected to challenge Nebraska and Oklahoma for the conference title.

Things won't get any easier the next week, when the Cornhuskers travel to Columbia, Mo., to play Missouri.

The regular season ends in Norman, Okla., which means "we have to play most of the top-rated teams in the conference on the road," said Osborne.

Even so, Nebraska's season outlook isn't one of gloom and doom.

Some excellent non-starters are back.

Senior defensive tackle Jim Skow "is the best pass rusher I've ever had here," defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said. "He's a hell of a football player, a big-play player."

Brian Washington, a 6-1, 218-pound sophomore monster back, also fits that description. He has a 36-inch vertical jump; he can bench press 375 pounds and run the 40-yard dash in :04.6. In the Cornhuskers' nickel pass defense, when they insert a fifth defensive back, Washington will become a linebacker.

Junior Danny Noonan didn't start as a sophomore, but he played enough to establish himself as a top-notch, defensive lineman.

"He'll throw you around like a rag doll," McBride said of the 6-3, 280-pound middle guard.

On offense, center Bill Lewis has waited four years for his chance to play regularly, and tackle Tim Roth has earned two letters as a back-up.

The line, the heart and soul of Nebraska's perennially explosive offense will be rebuilt around those seniors.

The development of an offensive line was one of Osborne's biggest concerns going into fall camp, though "at the end of spring ball we were more optimistic about it than we were going in (to the spring)," he said.

"Given the fact we really don't have any returning starters and only one who played a lot, we were pleased with what we saw. We're just concerned about ex-

perience."

The same is true at wide receiver.

Defensively, Osborne is most concerned about rebuilding the secondary. "Defensive end is very similar to the secondary," he said. "We have some athletic ability there and a little bit of experience, but we're certainly not very set, very solid."

Nebraska finished 11-2, earned a share of its fourth consecutive Big Eight title and beat Louisiana State in the Sugar Bowl last year with a team that "in many ways was about as dominant, statistically, as any team I've ever been around," said Osborne.

The offense led the Big Eight in every category except passing, and "we had the most dominant defensive team in the country, overall."

The Cornhuskers may not be as dominant this season, but Osborne anticipates a similar balance between offense and defense. Nebraska has talent, "but we don't have an overabundance of experience," he said.

Here's how the Huskers looked early in fall camp as they prepared for the season-opener against Florida State on Sept. 7 in Memorial Stadium.

OFFENSIVELY

Nebraska ranked third in the nation in rushing offense, sixth in scoring offense and 12th in total offense last season. The key losses included all the players in the line.

THE INTERIOR LINE

Right Tackle: Tom Welter/Todd Carpenter/Keven Lightner

Right Guard: Stan Parker/John McCormick/Jim Schaaf

Center: Bill Lewis/Mark Cooper/Jeff Sellentin

Left Guard: Brian Blankenship/Ron Galois/Mike Hoefler

Left Tackle: Tim Roth/Rob Maggard/Brad Johnson

ASSESSMENT

Lewis, 6-6, 277, and Roth, 6-0, 265, are the cornerstones of the offensive interior. "Lewis appears to have a chance to be of similar quality to (Mark) Traynowicz," according to Osborne.

Traynowicz was a two-time all-conference center, taking over that recognition from Dave Rimington.

Lewis "is going to be an outstanding center," said NU offensive line Coach Clete Fischer. "He's big and aggressive. That's one spot where we'll be as good as we were with those other guys in the past."

Roth, a walkon from Hermosa Beach, Calif., has started one game in his Cornhusker career and earned two letters. "We'd like to have him a couple of inches taller, but he's a fierce competitor," said NU offensive line coach Milt Tenopir.

Welter, a 6-4, 270-pound junior from Yankton, S.D., began the fall as the first-team right tackle.

"Tom Welter was probably the biggest and most pleasant surprise of the spring," Osborne said.

borne.

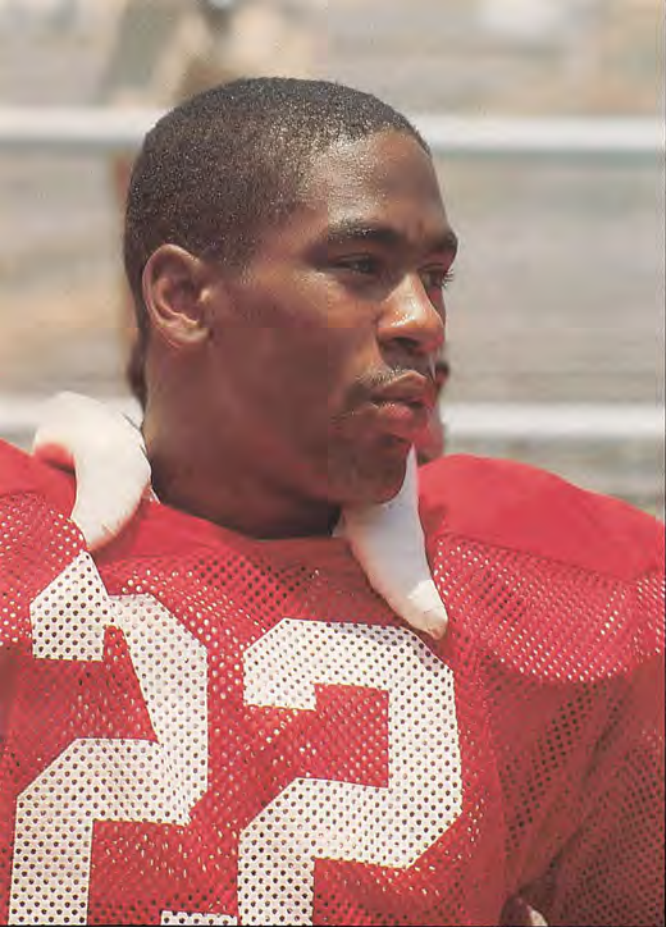
Senior linebacker Mike Knox sat out last season with a knee injury, but he started and led the team in tackles two years ago. So he counts in the total.

Nevertheless, Osborne said, "Most of the teams we play will have 12 to 14 starters returning."

It's a fact that the Cornhuskers have the fewest returning starters in the conference.

The way Osborne looks at it, that's going to pose some problems, especially since "we're going to be playing several teams where the physical talent is fairly equal."

The situation is complicated by a



Doug Dubose (22) is hoping to surpass 200 yards per game rushing from the No.1 I-back spot.

"He's gotten stronger and faster."

Welter is "a very intelligent kid, like 3.7 or 3.8 (on a 4.0 scale) in the classroom, so he didn't have any problem with the mental end," said Tenopir. "He just hasn't had much repetition."

Parker, a 6-4 and 240-pound junior out of East High in Bellevue, is "a little small yet," Tenopir said. "But Stan's going to be a real fine player."

The line is inexperienced, but the players "know what we want them to do, and they'll work awfully hard," said Tenopir. "We expect this to be a good offensive line." "Our offensive line will really have to come around because that's where it all starts. You have great skilled athletes, but if you don't have a good offensive line, you'll never get started," Osborne said.

RECEIVERS

Tight End: Todd Frain/Tom Banderas/Todd Millikin

Split End: Robb Schnitzler/Rod Smith/Hendley Hawkins

Wingback: Roger Lindstrom/Von Sheppard/Dana Brinson

ASSESSMENT

The tragic loss of Brian Hiemer has made tight end an area of concern. He and Frain alternated as starters last season, a system which NU receivers coach Gene Huey planned to use again this fall.

According to Osborne, the Cornhuskers need three quality tight ends because they use double-tight end formations about 30 percent of the time.

In an attempt to shore up the position redshirted freshman Todd Millikin was

moved from linebacker to tight end, and freshman Bump Novacek was given an opportunity to work with the varsity while the team was still practicing in sweat clothes.

Banderas, a 6-2, 225-pound sophomore from Oak Grove, Mo., "really made a turnaround the last 10 days of spring ball," Huey said.

Until then, "he just didn't look like a tight end. You wanted to see some change in him. He's still got some things to refine, but I think Tom's going to be a good right end. Those last 10 or 12 days, he assumed control."

Frain was in control all of last season. "You can depend on him," Huey said. "I see him run a 12-yard 'under' and if the ball's anywhere near him, he's going to catch it."

Senior Brian Moore also may play some at tight end. Sophomore Willie Griffin may be redshirted.

Lindstrom, a senior walkon from Oakland, and Sheppard, a redshirted sophomore from St. Paul, Minn., are slated to alternate as starters at wingback. "I want to see them both play," said Huey.

"Some people don't like that system, but in order to be fair when you have players with comparable talents, you list them both as starters and alternate them from week to week."

Sheppard is the better athlete, but Lindstrom has been in the system four years and knows what to do.

"Roger is a very capable player. He

doesn't have great speed, but the field is only 100 yards long, and he can operate within those confines very well," said Huey.

Sheppard is extremely quick and has "great eye-hand coordination."

Brinson, a true sophomore from Valdosta, Ga., "is going to be an exciting player," Huey said. "At the conclusion of spring ball, I was very impressed with him. He turned my head a little more because he was really bearing down, trying to do everything correctly, which I appreciated."

"I saw some maturity take place."

Ray Nelson, a junior from Omaha, also could fit in at wingback.

Schnitzler, a junior walkon from Battle Creek, gained experience late last season when Jason Gamble was sidelined with a knee injury.

Gamble apparently is lost for the season, "but I'm not worried about it," Huey said. "You play with what you have. Things go on. In this program you're always going to have somebody to pick up the standard."

Schnitzler is that somebody at split end. Smith, Hawkins, a converted quarterback, and Jeff Krantz, a junior walkon from Bayard, provide depth at another position that requires at least two regulars.

Huey compares Krantz to former Cornhusker John Noonan, who didn't establish himself as a receiver until his senior year.

"I'd like to see Jeff play," Huey said. "The ability is there, but I haven't seen him say, 'This is mine, I want it.'"

Brinson is learning split end as well as wingback, and "he certainly can be used on special teams, returning punts and kickoffs," said Huey.

"He's a very quick and explosive athlete, the kind who can put the ball in the end zone."

RUNNING BACKS

I-back: Doug DuBose/Paul Miles/Kelith Jones/Jon Kelley

Fullback: Tom Rathman/Ken Kaelin/Dan Casterline

ASSESSMENT

"We've got outstanding speed at the I-back spot, so that we'll have a breakaway threat every time one of them touches the ball," said Solich.

Based on 40-yard dash times, DuBose is the slowest of the four.

According to Solich, the 5-11, 191-pound junior appears to be ready for an outstanding season. Last year, DuBose "made a lot of improvement. Some of that came from experience, having to do it," said Solich. "Doug's always had confidence, but you could just see his confidence multiply."

"We saw a big development in his power running, one-on-one situations where contact was imminent."

DuBose's name already has come up in Heisman Trophy discussions.

Solich isn't averse to giving him a push in that direction. "Doug is a great athlete.



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A guy with his qualities has the potential to be that type of back. But so many things have to happen to a young player to be considered for the Heisman. A lot of things have to fall into place," said Solich.

"I think Doug is the type of guy who will go about his business. He's not thinking about that and neither am I. But there's a chance that down the road maybe those things will fall into place for him."

Miles would be the starter on many teams. The senior from Princeton, N.J., "played better in the spring than I've ever seen him play, and it's not that Paul hasn't played well previously," said Solich. "We're expecting Paul to do a great job."

A dislocated shoulder, suffered in the Syracuse game, prevented Miles from

doing that last season.

He's the strongest of the I-backs, having bench pressed 360 pounds and lifted 750 pounds on the hip sled.

Whether or not Jones will redshirt won't be decided until the opening game at the earliest. The first week of fall camp, the sophomore from Omaha said he was leaning toward playing.

He's the fastest player in Cornhusker football history, having run :04.33, electronically timed, in the 40.

Kelley has run a :04.45.

The sophomore out of Lincoln Southeast "is getting bigger and stronger," Solich said. "Jon Kelley is similar to Paul (Miles) in that he played better this spring than I've ever seen him play. I feel very

good about Jon."

In any case, DuBose won't be the only Nebraska I-back earning headlines this fall. "I think our system is great for an I-back to get recognition," said Solich. "We run the ball so much an I-back can get 20-some carries a game and a second-team I-back can still have a chance to get his yards and prove himself, too."

Overall, the Cornhuskers appear to be well-stocked with backs. "The I-back position is strong, probably as strong as it's ever been for depth and quality," Osborne said.

According to Osborne, Rathman can be "a great fullback. I still don't think he's ever played up to his potential," said Osborne.

Rathman gained 381 yards and scored four touchdowns last season. He may get to carry the ball more often this fall.

Kaelin, a walkon from Westerville who played eight-man football in high school, can bench press 375 pounds and run 40 yards in 4.92 seconds.

Casterline, a second-string monster back two years ago, began the fall as the No. 3 fullback after redshirting last fall. "I like his ability," Solich said of the 5-10, 222-pound junior from Evergreen, Colo.

"He's an extremely tough football player. He blocks you. He's a strong runner. He hits the hole quickly."

Sophomore Micah Heibel, a sophomore from Lincoln, will push Casterline for the No. 3 fullback job.

"We're looking forward to the backs being a very strong unit this year. I'd like to see them take a major role in leadership on the field," said Solich.

"The depth we have is certainly a plus. If we do get a few people banged up, we should still be able to put a very fine player on the field."

QUARTERBACK

Travis Turner: McCathorn Clayton/Jeff Taylor/Clete Blake man

ASSESSMENT

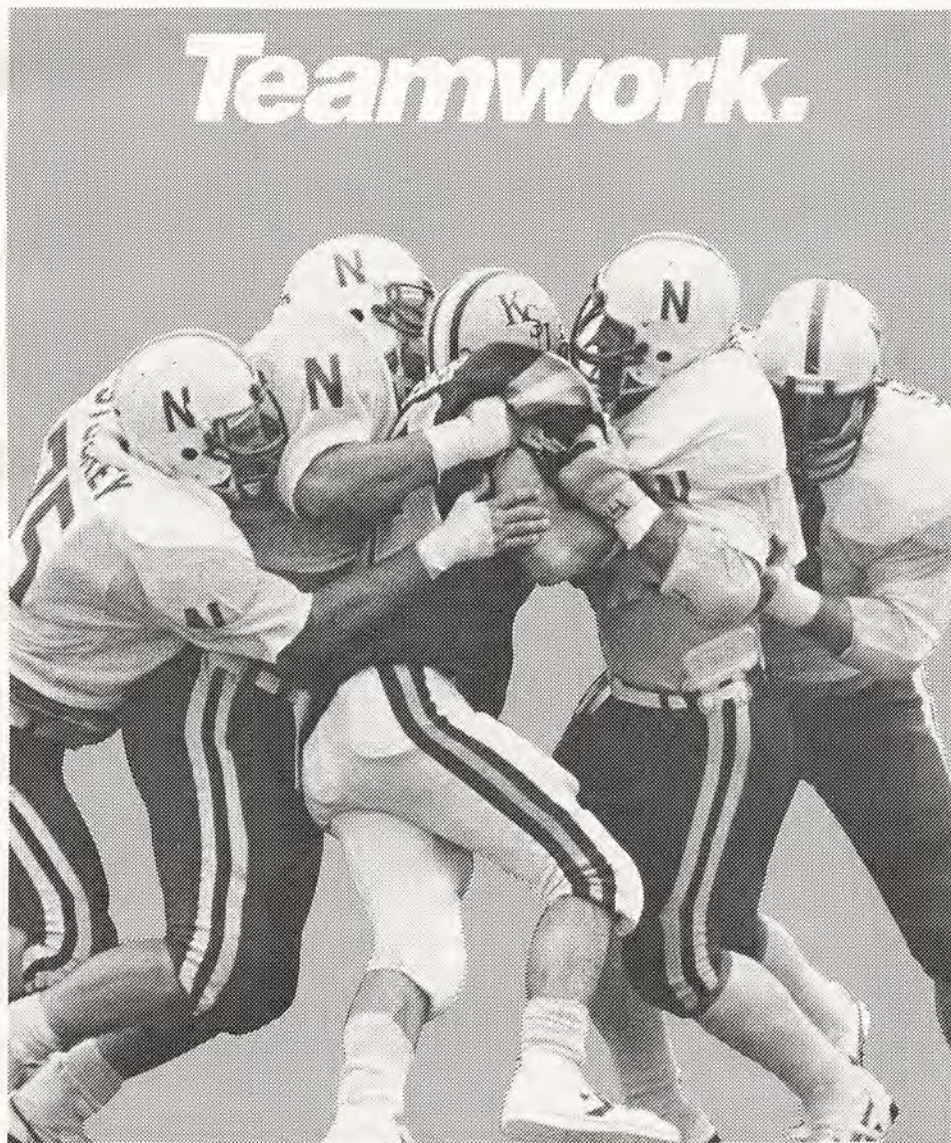
Travis Turner has the experience required of a quarterback in Nebraska's complex offensive system. "You need stability at that spot," said Osborne.

"You need somebody in there who will get the right play run at the right time, knowing when to audible and when not to, get a snap, hand off or get the ball thrown reasonably close to the right person. He's got to know where to go with the ball."

Turner completed 37 of 75 passes for 541 yards and four touchdowns last season. He was intercepted three times. He also ran for 190 yards and scored a team-high 10 touchdowns.

Turner "played generally well last year," said Osborne. "He's an aggressive player, and he has good leadership qualities."

Turner worked hard in the weight room following knee surgery after spring prac-



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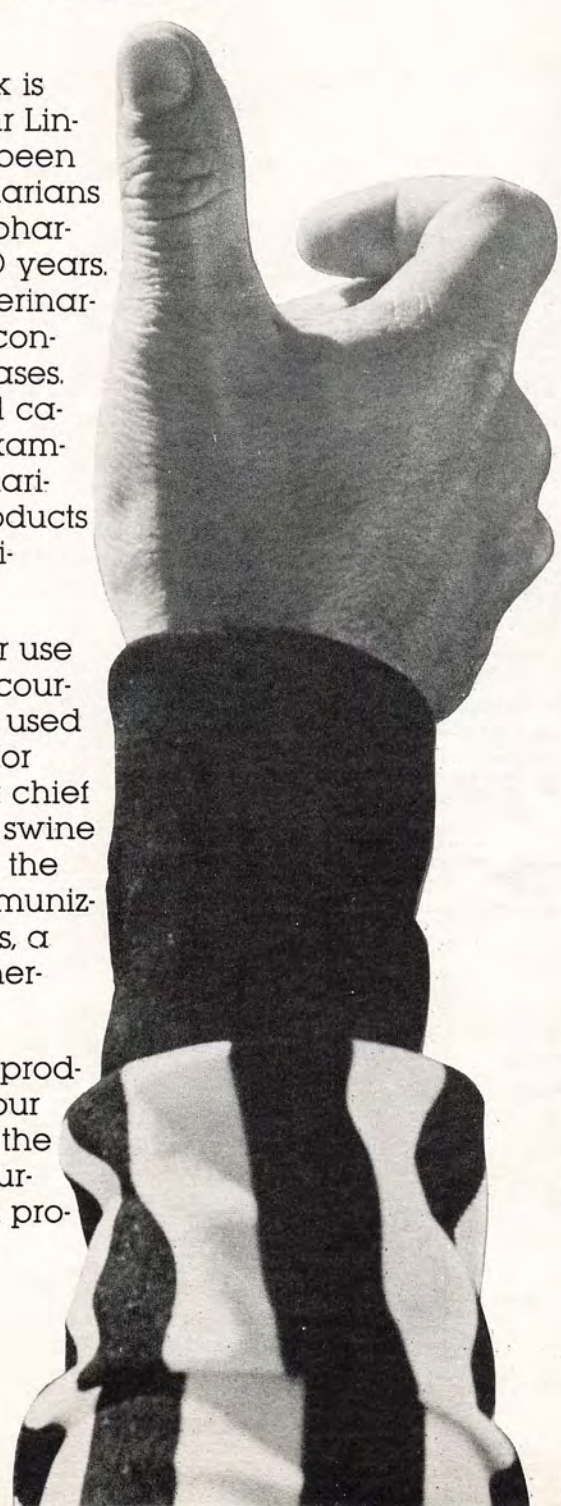
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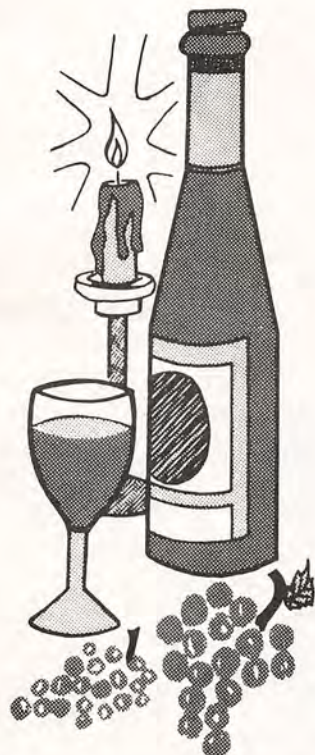
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tice. The 6-3 senior from Scottsbluff weighed in at 206 pounds.

Clayton has the physical ability to be an outstanding college quarterback. All he needs is game experience.

The redshirted sophomore from Orlando, Fla., "is the hardest working quarterback I've ever seen," NU assistant strength and conditioning coach Mike Arthur said.

"Mac's main strength is just overall athletic ability," said Osborne.

Blakeman and Taylor were given a good look early in fall camp to determine a No. 3 quarterback. Blakeman missed half the spring with back problems.

"Both those players are good athletes," Osborne said. "They're reasonably good runners and reasonably good throwers."

Sophomore Wendell Wooten is slated for a redshirt this fall.

Freshman Steven Taylor may get an opportunity to dress for the varsity's non-conference home games, but he would have to make dramatic progress to move into the top three on the varsity depth chart. Without the stability that usually comes with experience in the system, "you just don't have continuity, and you break down too much," Osborne said.

"If you don't have that, all the other positions on offense, no matter how talented they are, really suffer. If Travis would go down, we'd be starting with people who have very little experience."

KICKING

Dan Wingard/Dale Klein/Craig Schnitzler

ASSESSMENT

"The kicking game is sort of like the other areas on our team," according to Osborne. Wingard, a senior from Omaha, appears to be ready to step in as the punter. He had one punt, a 38-yarder, last fall.

Klein connected on four of eight field goal attempts and converted 26 of 28 extra points. The senior from Seward "had a pretty good spring in kicking PATs and field goals," Fischer said.

Schnitzler, brother of the Huskers' split end, is coming off a redshirt.

Sophomore John Krocker might be red-shirted this fall. Freshman Chris Drennan, a scholarship recruit, was to be given a chance early in fall camp. Drennan can punt as well as place kick.

Nebraska's top two kick returners, Jeff Smith and Shane Swanson, are gone, leaving another area of concentration during pre-season practice.

"Von Sheppard, Dana Brinson and Robb Schnitzler can all be good kick return men," said Osborne. "We just haven't seen any of them do it (in varsity competition) yet."

DEFENSIVELY

Nebraska ranked first in the nation in total defense and scoring defense, fourth in rushing defense and fifth in pass defense last season but because of extensive gradu-

ation losses "our whole defense, really, is a question," according to McBride.

"We've got some good athletes with lack of experience. They've played, but playing together, playing as a unit, is a big thing," he said.

INTERIOR LINE

Left Tackle: Chris Spachman/Neil Smith/Tony Palmer

Middle guard: Danny Noonan/Ken Shead/Phil Rogers

Right Tackle: Jim Skow/Rod Reynolds/Lee Jones

ASSESSMENT

Any discussion of the defensive line must begin with Skow, a 6-3, 245-pound senior from Omaha. McBride is counting on him for leadership.

"Skow's not a guy who jumps up and down. That's not his thing. He just makes the hit, gets back in the huddle and shuts his mouth. He's up and back before anybody knows who made the tackle," said McBride.

"Jim's not a holler guy, but he might walk up to you, put his hands around your throat and start squeezing real tight. If he wants to get something across, he might choke you."

Skow bench presses 410 pounds. According to NU strength and conditioning coach Boyd Epley, that's even more impressive than it looks considering Skow's technique.

"He has a very narrow grip, which is a disadvantage," Epley said. "Anybody who can do that (410) can probably tear your head off on the football field."

Skow, who's started only three games during his Husker career, appears to be a safe bet for post-season recognition.

Spachman, a 6-5, 250-pound junior, could fit in that category, too.

Noonan gives Nebraska 280 pounds of muscle in the middle of its defensive front. "He's got great hands," said McBride. "It's hard to teach young kids to use their hands the way he does."

Noonan played defensive tackle last season and will provide back-up help there again this fall.

By moving him, "I weaken the left tackle as far as experience is concerned, but I also strengthen middle guard," McBride said.

McBride's decision was based, in part, on Noonan's future. "Danny is the kind of kid who might want to play pro ball someday, and he's not going to be a defensive end. But he can play inside. For all the traps we'll see, having a noseguard with strength is important."

Shead, who also reported for fall camp at 280 pounds, apparently hasn't lost much quickness, and according to McBride, even though he missed spring practice, he hasn't forgotten the defensive schemes.

With any combination of Skow, Noonan, Spachman and Shead, "we have an experienced line," McBride said.

Smith and Jones, a pair of sophomores, are the most talented back-ups but they

lack experience.

Smith has made a dramatic transformation since arriving from New Orleans last fall. He's 6-6, weighs 256 pounds and runs 40 yards in :04.7, making him Nebraska's fastest defensive lineman, ever. He can bench press 355 pounds, and his best vertical jump is 33.5 inches.

His arm span of more than seven feet helps make him an outstanding pass rusher. "You can try to hold him all you want. He'll just put his arm in front of you and run right by," said McBride. "Once he gets cranked up, he'll blow by people. "They'll never block him."

McBride intends to work Smith into games in situations where he can be successful. "Neil was really hesitant in the spring," he said.

While young players learn, "they're afraid to make mistakes so they go half-speed. Once they gain confidence, they can play recklessly."

The same assessment holds true for Jones, who redshirted last fall. The sophomore from Omaha can run the 40 in 4.74 seconds, making him the second fastest defensive lineman on the team.

Reynolds and Rogers, both seniors, and Palmer, a redshirted sophomore, provide the all-important depth.

Sophomore middle guard Lawrence

Pete, the strongest player in Nebraska football history, had been expected to challenge Rogers for a third-team job, but he's been slowed by a knee injury and likely will be redshirted.

Todd Proffitt, a veteran who lettered in 1983, is still trying to make the switch from linebacker to middle guard.

DEFENSIVE END

Left Side: Brad Smith/Scott Tucker/Brad Tyrer

Right Side: Gregg Reeves/Tony Holloway/Greg Van Dyke

ASSESSMENT

Smith and Reeves played enough last season that "I have a good feeling for what Brad and Gregg can do," said NU defensive ends coach George Darlington.

Smith and Reeves played about 30 percent of the time last season, but both were hampered by injuries during the spring. Smith had shoulder problems and Reeves was bothered by a knee that was eventually scoped.

Tyrer, a sophomore from Kansas City, Mo., sat out the entire spring with a pulled hamstring so that "we were really weak at defensive in terms of experience," McBride said.

"As far as the older players go, the big question is what contribution can Brad Tyrer make?" said Darlington.

Darlington likes to use four ends, "first,



Brian Blankenship (No. 70) returns after missing the 1984 season to bolster the offensive line at left guard.

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to make sure you're not going into a game with absolutely no experience if you have injuries, and second, you can get a higher intensity ratio when a player doesn't have to go the whole game," he said.

"Sometimes players who have to play the whole game will pace themselves. We don't want that."

Holloway, a converted linebacker who redshirted last season, has excellent speed and will make a good pass rusher. "He's one of the fastest ends we've ever had," Darlington said.

Holloway and Tucker went into the fall as back-ups to Smith and Reeves, with Van Dyke, Jeff Jamrog and sophomore Steve Stanard joining Tyrer in the competition for playing time.

Randall Jobman could work into the

picture eventually, but he'll probably play for the junior varsity this fall.

As always, "we're not looking for two guys. We're looking for four or five," said Darlington.

Replacing Scott Strasburger and Bill Weber isn't easy, but "I'm a lot more comfortable with what we've got now than what we had in 1981," he said. "At the beginning of that season we had Jimmy Williams and no one else. We didn't get that worked out until the third or fourth game."

The seniors are all good size. Smith stands 6-3 and weighs 230 pounds, while Tucker and Reeves are 6-3, 220.

"Physically, this is probably the biggest group of kids we've had," Darlington said.

LINEBACKER
Strongside: Mike Knox; Kevin Parsons; Doug Welniak
Weakside: Marc Munford/Chad Daffer/Blake Henning

ASSESSMENT

"Our linebackers are as quality a group as there is in the country," McBride said, adding that Knox and Munford, the starters, "are as good a pair of leaders as you'll find."

Knox, who's coming off a year-long rehabilitation following reconstructive knee surgery, predicts a big season for the Black Shirts. "We don't have the big powerhouse reputation we've had in past years," he said. "But I think we can dominate the way the defense did last year."

Daffer, who had an outstanding Sugar Bowl, was the No. 3 linebacker last season, and Parsons is good enough to start for a lot of teams. The junior from Springfield, Mo., already has earned two varsity letters.

Parsons is the team's second fastest linebacker. Munford, of course, is the first. He's been timed in the 40-yard dash at :04.72. When Nebraska goes to its "Hawk" pass defense, Munford doesn't come out.

Henning and Welniak are sophomore walkons who performed well during the spring. Steve Forch, a talented junior out of Lincoln East, is good enough to play regularly, but considering the depth at this position, he'll probably redshirt to save a year of eligibility.

Even though second-year freshman Todd Millikan, a promising young linebacker, has been shirtd to tight end, the future looks bright at linebacker. Freshman LeRoy Etienne and Steve DeShazer are both highly-regarded.

Cornhusker linebackers Coach John Melton is optimistic going into the season. "This is about as comfortable as we've felt at this position in while," he said. "There's a lot of experience, speed and aggressiveness. I think we've got about five or six guys who could play."

SECONDARY

Left Cornerback: Dennis Watkins/Brian Pokorny/Gary Schneider

Right Cornerback: Mike Carl/Cleo Miller/Brian Davis

Monster: Brian Washington/Jeff Tomjack/Guy Rozier

Free Safety: Bryan Siebler/Chris Carr/Dan Thayer

ASSESSMENT

Cornhusker defensive backs coach Bob Thornton has reason for optimism even though he must rebuild the secondary. "As a group the athletes we've got are better than I've ever had," he said.

The problem is, with the notable exceptions of Watkins and Washington, they all lack significant game experience.

Watkins and Washington provide a good base on which to build. Watkins is the fastest defensive back in NU history, having run the 40 in 4.47 seconds.

Davis, a junior college transfer, is the second fastest. The junior college All-American at Glendale, Ariz., Community College ran an impressive :04.49 40 in pre-sea-

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Washington, who's considerably bigger than he was last fall, combines size, speed and strength to give the Cornhuskers a third linebacker in some defensive alignments. "He's like a piece of cement," said McBride, who compares the sophomore from Highland Springs, Va., to Russell Gary, a former Husker now playing in the NFL.

Gary played linebacker "in goal line passing situations," McBride said.

"He was a hitter. Washington's just like that only he's bigger than Gary."

Washington "still hasn't done the things he can do just because of caution, not knowing the system. If you don't know, you don't go full-speed."

McBride expects to see Washington at full-speed this fall, and that's bad news for Husker opponents.

Thornton plans to alternate juniors Bryan Siebler and Chris Carr at safety. Replacing Bret Clark may be the most difficult task Thornton faces. He's hoping the combined skills of Siebler and Carr will get the job done.

Siebler is a better pass defender because of his speed, and Carr is probably a little stronger against the run, but there's little difference.

"I've had a full season and a spring to

Continued on page 28

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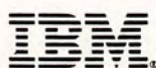
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Pre-Game Picks

Lee Sapp's Pick: Nebraska 24 — Florida State 14

Gerald Ensley, Tallahassee Democrat — "FSU got its miracle in 1980 but the Cornhuskers proved the next year that it was a fluke. FSU fans have been talking about beating Nebraska again, but it would be a dream. This would be a good time to catch Nebraska in its first game but it's not the perfect time. **Nebraska 35, Florida State 21.**"

Dave Webber, WOWT, Omaha — "It might be the toughest opener since Nebraska tied UCLA and maybe in a couple of decades. Nebraska has fine people coming back but they must rebuild the defensive line and they are real green in the defensive backfield. **Nebraska in a very close game.**"

Kim Heusel, Fremont Tribune — "Nebraska's great tradition at home has to play a part in it. I've heard some say FSU is supposed to be good this year so this could be one of the better season openers Nebraska has had in a long time. **Nebraska 28, Florida State 7.**"

Denny Fuehrer, Norfolk News — "This is another new group of Huskers and they'll be anxious to prove their positions in the Big Red tradition. **Nebraska 28, Florida State 10.**"

Terry Yeager, KMTV, Omaha — "Everyone is talking about how Nebraska has so few returning starters. Hogwash! That's a factory down there (in Lincoln). They could be as good, maybe better, than last year's team. I think the Seminoles and Bobby Bowden will come away smartin' just a bit. **Nebraska 28, Florida State 14.**"

Bob Asmussen, Daily Nebraskan — "Florida State has a lot of injuries and they have a game the week before, so more could get hurt. They'd give us a game if they weren't banged up. **Nebraska 24, Florida State 10.**"

Rich Thiesfeld, WOWT, Omaha — "Bobby Bowden is an excellent coach and

Florida State did beat Nebraska in 1980. But playing at home, Nebraska will have a little bit of an edge. **Nebraska 24, Florida State 17.**"

Lee Barfnecht, Omaha World Herald — "Nebraska's big-play potential should be enough to overcome any early offensive mistakes and the relative inexperience of the defense. **Nebraska 28, Florida State 23.**" ♦

Huskers Illustrated — "Over the past few years, Florida State and Bobby Bowden have earned a reputation as the most dangerous college football team to have to kick against. Last season, for example, the Seminoles blocked seven punts that were returned for touchdowns. Another four blocks resulted in short drives for touchdowns. There's not much that turns a game around quicker than a big mistake in the kicking game that allows the other team to score an easy one.

"The kicking game may well be a key this year. The two teams are just about as different as you could find. Nebraska will field an offensive unit full of new faces, but bodies which look quite a bit like Huskers of old. There may be some procedure penalties and timing mistakes which prevent Tom Osborne's squad from putting together more than a couple of long drives. But there will be enough speed in the backfield (not to mention depth) to produce the big plays that win games like this. Don't be surprised if Nebraska rushes for more than 400 yards against an FSU defense that is weak up front and average in the secondary.

"One coach who has had a close look at both teams says, 'Nebraska has to keep the Florida State offense off the field as much as possible and Nebraska has to score some points. The state of Florida has so many kids who can run, they have enough speed to beat you. They think Sammy Smith is another Herschel Walker-type back. They're very, very strong on offense and very average on defense. Nebraska should be good on offense, as usual. So I think Nebraska can definitely run the ball on

Florida State.'

"The fact that FSU has an early opener with Tulane should be a benefit for Bowden's club. The game should give a sophisticated offense with some new skill people a chance to develop some consistency. But Tulane will in no way give the Seminole defense any idea of what is to come in Lincoln the next Saturday.

"No matter who's in the game for Nebraska at I-back and fullback, look for some big gains. And the threat of DuBose, Miles or Jones breaking on any play should open up the air lanes for a fast and balanced receiver corps. The Huskers will score often. And they'll need almost all of the points they score. Let's make it **Nebraska 31, Florida State 21** in the opener of another championship season."

Coach Osborne's Evaluation

The fact that Florida State has had an extra week of practice and one game under its belt concerns me a great deal because having played one ball game and gotten rid of the jitters makes a big difference. Having the open date before the Illinois game (Sept. 21) will hopefully balance out the fact that Illinois will have played two games. That's why I wanted to move the Florida State game up a week. That's one thing about the college game that's probably not quite right.

"In pro ball every team has the same number of exhibition games. They all play the same number of games, and they all start at the same time. In college the schedule can really be a factor. Some teams start on Aug. 31, and some don't open until Sept. 21. That's quite a swing.

"The experience factor may be in Florida State's favor. We'll be playing a team with fairly equal ability to us. There's not a lot of margin for error. You'll have 150 or so plays in a ball game and maybe only five or six big mistakes, so the percentage of mistakes is very low. If Florida State has four turnovers and we have only one, we'll probably win. Turn that around and they'll probably win." ♦

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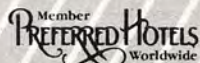
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Season Preview

Continued from page 25

watch them, and I still can't tell the difference," Thornton said. "They're just two peas in a pod. I'm really glad to have both of them."

Thornton is looking for at least four cornerbacks with which to go into the season. "I've changed my philosophy a little bit," he said.

Instead of picking two starters and letting them play a game from beginning to

TWO-DEEP

NU OFFENSE

POSITION	PLAYER
Right Tackle	Tom Welter, 6-4, 270, jr. Todd Carpenter, 6-6, 305, jr.
Right Guard	Stan Parker, 6-4, 240, jr. John McCormick, 6-0, 250, so.
Center	Bill Lewis, 6-6, 277, sr. Mark Cooper, 6-1, 245, jr.
Left Guard	Brian Blankenship, 287, Ron Galois, 6-0, 265, jr.
Left Tackle	Tim Roth, 6-0, 265, sr. Rob Maggard, 6-3, 265, jr.
Tight End	Todd Frain, 6-3, 230, sr. Tom Banderas, 6-2, 225, so.
Split End	Robb Schnitzler, 5-9, 170, sr. Rod Smith, 6-0, 195, so.
Wingback	Roger Lindstrom, 5-10, 195, sr. Von Sheppard, 5-9, 185, so.
I-Back	Doug DuBose, 5-11, 191, jr. Paul Miles, 5-10, 200, sr.
Fullback	Tom Rathman, 6-0, 220, sr. Ken Kaelin, 5-10, 215, jr.
Quarterback	Travis Turner, 6-3, 206, sr. McCaythorn Clayton, 6-0, 195, so.

KICKERS

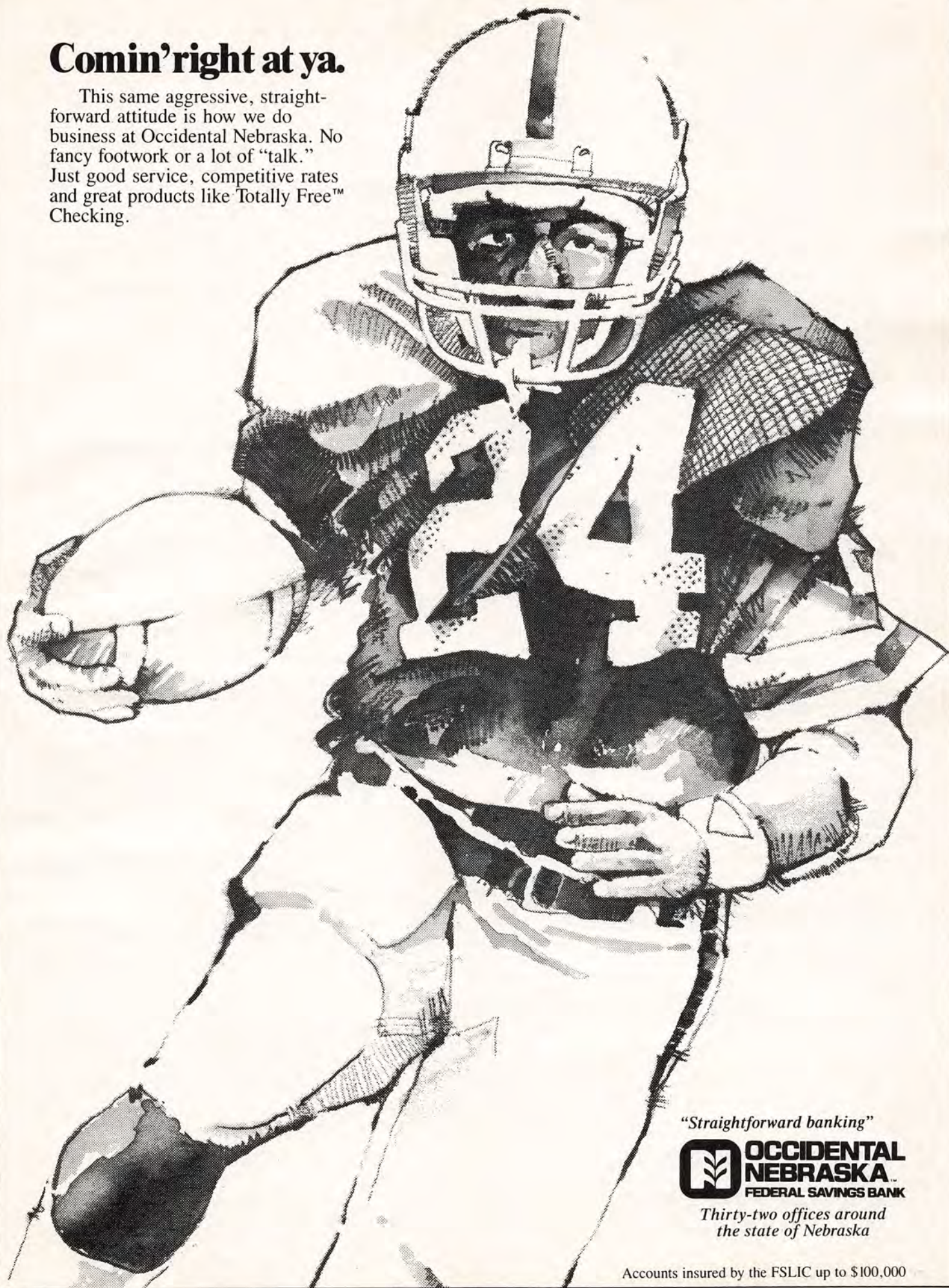
Punter	Dan Wingard, 6-1, 195, sr.
Kicker	Dale Klein, 6-1, 195, so. Craig Schnitzler, 5-8, 215, so.

DEFENSE

Left Tackle	Chris Spachman, 6-5, 250, jr. Neil Smith, 6-6, 256, so.
Middle Guard	Danny Noonan, 6-3, 280, jr. Ken Shead, 5-11, 235, sr.
Right Tackle	Jim Skow, 6-3, 245, sr. Rod Reynolds, 6-3, 245, sr.
Left Defensive End	Brad Smith, 6-3, 230, sr. Scott Tucker, 6-3, 220, sr.
Right Defensive End	Gregg Reeves, 6-3, 220, sr. Tony Holloway, 6-2, 205, jr.
Strongside Linebacker	Mike Knox, 6-2, 235, sr. Kevin Parsons, 6-3, 230, jr.
Weakside Linebacker	Marc Munford, 6-2, 230, jr. Chad Daffer, 6-1, 230, sr.
Left Cornerback	Dennis Watkins, 5-11, 180, sr. Brian Pokorny, 5-11, 175, sr.
Right Cornerback	Mike Carl, 5-11, 180, jr. Cleo Miller, 5-9, 170, jr.
Monster	Brian Washington, 6-1, 218, so. Jeff Tomjack, 6-0, 200, so.
Free Safety	Bryan Siebler, 5-11, 195, jr. Chris Carr, 6-2, 195, jr.

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end, Thornton plans to alternate cornerbacks the way an offensive team alternates its wide receivers.

That way, a fresh defender will be covering a fresh receiver.

In addition to Watkins and Davis, Mike Carl, Brian Pokorny, Gary Schneider, Cleo Miller and John Custard have been impressive.

Carl, a junior walkon from Gretna, began the fall as the No. 1 right corner. "He could be a starter or an excellent backup," said McBride.

"Mike Carl just does everything right. He knows the defense very well, and he's an excellent open field tackler."

Pokorny is a senior on whom Thornton will count for some leadership.

Schneider, who redshirted last fall, and

Miller, another junior college transfer who went through spring practice, are juniors.

Custard, a sophomore walkon from Bellevue, "would be a fine corner," Thornton said. But because of the talented and experienced athletes ahead of him, Custard probably will redshirt.

Senior Guy Rozier and sophomores Jeff Tomjack, Gene Chealey and Kevin Hinton line up behind Washington at monster, while Dan Thayer, a junior from Grand Island, began the fall as the third safety.

"The strength of the secondary will be athletic ability. They're all fine athletes," Thornton said.

"I've got more depth this year than I've ever had. We're loaded. The weakness is experience, and that will take care of itself." ♦

Trivia

1. Nebraska has had more returning starters than this year (4) on its teams every year since: (a) 1973, (b) 1976, (c) 1969, (d) 1964.

2. Nebraska's last losing season, 3-6-1, was in: (a) 1964, (b) 1963, (c) 1961, (d) 1957.

3. The formation that doomed the Huskers in the 1941 Rose Bowl was the: (a) Stanford Split, (b) Stanford Flying V, (c) Stanford's remodeled T, (d) Stanford's Model T.

4. What was the first name of the only Husker coach to have an undefeated and unscored upon team at Nebraska? (a) Bob, (b) Tom, (c) Dana, (d) Bummy, (e) Jimbo.

5. The 1971 Huskers won the national championship with the following All-Americans: Rodgers, Tagge, Glover, Harper, Kinney and (a) Murtaugh, (b) Newton, (c) Jacobson, (d) White.

6. When Nebraska hosted Florida State in 1981, a Husker back tied the record for the longest touchdown run from scrimmage (94 yards). Who was it? (a) Mike Rozier, (b) Jarvis Redwine, (c) I.M. Hipp, (d) Roger Craig.

7. Who shares that record for a 94-yard touchdown run from scrimmage? (a) John O'Leary, (b) Craig Johnson, (c) Monte Anthony, (d) Rick Berns.

8. He was Florida State's second All-American ever? (a) Ron Sellers, (b) Fred Bilet-nikoff, (c) Rohn Stark, (d) Gary Huff.

9. Florida State has been a co-ed university since: (a) 1867, (b) 1890, (c) 1947, (d) 1892.

10. For the first three years of the football program at Florida State, the Seminoles played at: (a) Doak Campbell Stadium, (b) Seminole Stadium, (c) FSU Stadium, (d) on the road.

11. Mike Rozier rushed for 4,780 yards during his career. His best two games combined were for 512 yards in 1983. Which two games were those: (a) Penn State and Wyoming, (b) Minnesota and Oklahoma, (c) Minnesota and Kansas State, (d) Kansas and Kansas State.

12. He was the "guard around" on the famous scoring play in 1979: (a) Dean Steinkuhler, (b) Bob Newton, (c) Randy Schleusener, (d) John Havekost.

13. Florida State lost to Oklahoma in back-to-back Orange Bowls in 1980 and 1981. What was the first bowl game the Seminoles were in? (a) Sun, (b) Gator, (c) Cigar, (d) Bluegrass.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nebraska has never played at Florida State. Former Indiana football coach Lee Corso lettered three years at Florida State. Bill Chaloupka and Harvey Rathbone share the Husker record for points scored in a game (30). Rich Sanger still holds the NU career points (kicking) in a season (203) and Mike Rozier is the all-time leader with 312 points in his NU career. Billy Todd and Dean Sukup share the Husker record for field goals in a season with 12. Johnny Rodgers holds every NU punt return record, but Pat Fischer holds the NU mark for highest average kickoff returns in a season and a career.

ANSWERS TO HUSKER TRIVIA

1D; 2C; 3C; 4D; 5C; 6D; 7B; 8B; 9C; 10D; 11D; 12C; 13C.

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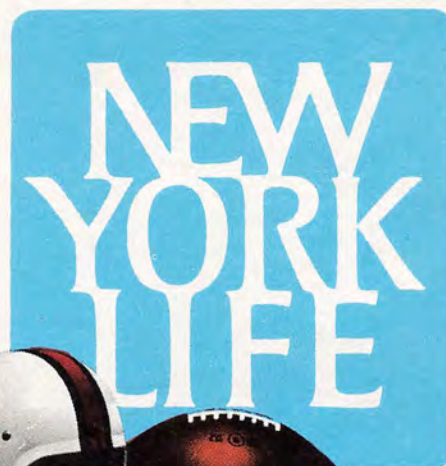
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